GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6206
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2002
NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS
ANANDRAO ADSUL;CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate the steps to revive the proposal to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens as reported in the `Hindu` dated April 12, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its objective;

(c) whether this proposal was earlier derailed following the reservations expressed by some States:

(d) if so, the details of reservations expressed by the States last time, State-wise;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue raised by State Governments;

(f) the time by which the proposed cards are likely to be issued;

(g) whether the Government propose to link the National Identity Cards within the Citizenship Act; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (h): A proposal to issue Multipurpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) to Indian citizens, including the people residing in the border areas of the country is receiving Government`s attention. These cards, apart from providing a credible identification system, may have multifarious uses.

The issue of MNICs would involve creation of an identification system for more than one billion citizens, streamlining the existing machinery for the registration of birth and deaths at the grass root levels and choices of institutional as well as technological options for the creation of an integrated data base of personal identities capable of being continuously updated. The Government would finalize its decision only after an in-depth examination of all relevant issues and after making necessary preparations, including the legal backing to the scheme.

Issuing National Identity Cards under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 is one of the options available.

The issue of National Identity Cards was discussed and endured in the conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security held in 17th November 2001.